



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on October 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Town Hall, second floor conference room. The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Moe Clare, Kathy Tucciarone, Christine Lichatz, Spencer Morris and Ben Terry. Board member Mark Lombardi was absent. Bill Nash, Town Hall liaison to the EDB, was in attendance. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting held September 23, 2013

The minutes from the regular meeting held on September 23, 2013 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Ms. Volino to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Clare, and all members were in favor.

2. Review and Action on Comprehensive Plan recommendations to Planning Board

Ms. Dionne is currently working on the draft of the letter of EDB recommendations to the Planning Board regarding the Comprehensive Plan. She stated that she will send out a draft of the letter to the Board before the November meeting. The Board will vote on the letter at the next meeting. Ms. Dionne stated that land use is the next section of the Comprehensive Plan to be drafted. The Board briefly discussed the economic benefits of agriculture and farmland.

3. Update on CDGB funded projects including RI Local advertising and Town Hall landscaping

The Warren promotional section which was previously discussed by the Board was not included in the October issue of RI Local. Due to Mr. Lombardi's absence, the Board will discuss this at the November meeting.

Ms. Lichatz reported that she has been working with the Town Manager as well as the Department of Public Works on the Town Hall landscaping project. She plans to work on the project in two phases. The Holiday Festival, which takes place the weekend after Thanksgiving, was mentioned as a possible deadline for the first phase.

Regarding the Storefront Improvement Program, Ms. Dionne reported that the owner of the Warren Super Mart plans to have painting done before the holiday season. She also

reported that La Boehme on Main Street used the Storefront Improvement funds to have a decal made for their store window. Ms. Lichatz reported that she discussed the program with the manager at Citizens Bank. Ms. Dionne requested that the members of the Board visit a business over the next month to promote the project. The deadline for spending the current funds is February 1, 2014. Ms. Dionne said she would send the Board member a fact sheet outlining the program.

4. Update on Economic Development Coordinator Position

Mr. Nash reported that to the best of his knowledge there has been one applicant for the position of Economic Development Coordinator. The Board briefly discussed the qualifications and the responsibilities of the potential candidates. Mr. Nash also reported that the new website coordinator has been working on improving the town website.

Mr. Nash left the meeting at this time.

5. Designate committee and individual projects based on 2013-2014 work plan

The board reviewed the current work plan and agreed to further discuss this issue as the November meeting.

At the end of the meeting, audience members Steve Patistea, Eileen Horta and Sandra Horta briefly appealed to the Board regarding their frustrations about opening starting a business on Market Street. Ms. Dionne thanked them for attending and said she would speak to Mr. Gordon to learn more about the situation.

A motion was made to adjourn, the motion was seconded, and all members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald
November 16, 2013

